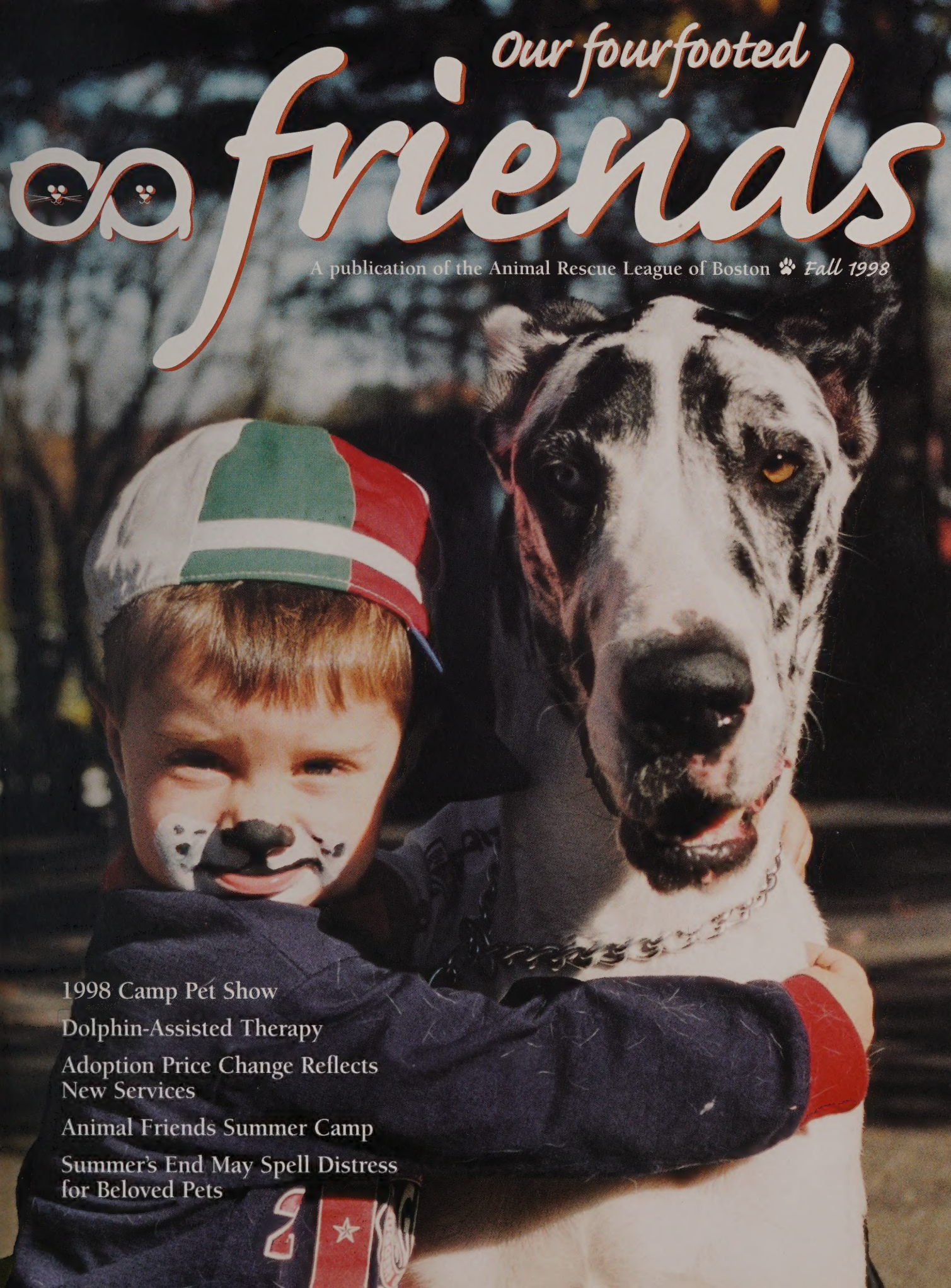

Our fourfooted friends

A publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston ❦ Fall 1998

1998 Camp Pet Show

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Volume 95, No. 7 Fall 1998

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On the Cover

Chad Cunningham of Bellingham, MA, cuddles up to "Pongo" at a past Petoberfest. Photo by Bob Howard.

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Our fourfooted friends

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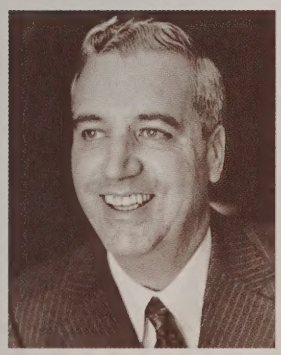
A Message from the President

Disturbing Aspects of Our Present Day Society

In the article I wrote for this page in the last issue of Our Fourfooted Friends, I said in part, "Animal neglect and abuse have taken many forms over the years, but none more violent or vicious than some of the acts we are seeing today."



Arthur G. Slade
President

I do not mean to belabor this point, but it is without question one of the most disturbing and frightening aspects of our present day society.

I have just viewed the remains of two animals who were the victims of violent crimes, tortured and mutilated beyond belief. Some of this relates to the street crime with very young teenagers and their dog fighting activities as I related last time, but an equally, if not more, revolting type of abuse is happening with more and more frequency.

I am referring to the cult types of animal cruelty where torture and sacrifice of live animals is commonplace. There are organized groups who are a major problem for law enforcement organizations all over the country. Unfortunately, there is also an apparent increase in individuals who see such activities as something new and exciting to do. In some cases, there are people, some young and some not so young, who use drugs and seek such actions as an additional "thrill" to an already confused and fractured lifestyle.

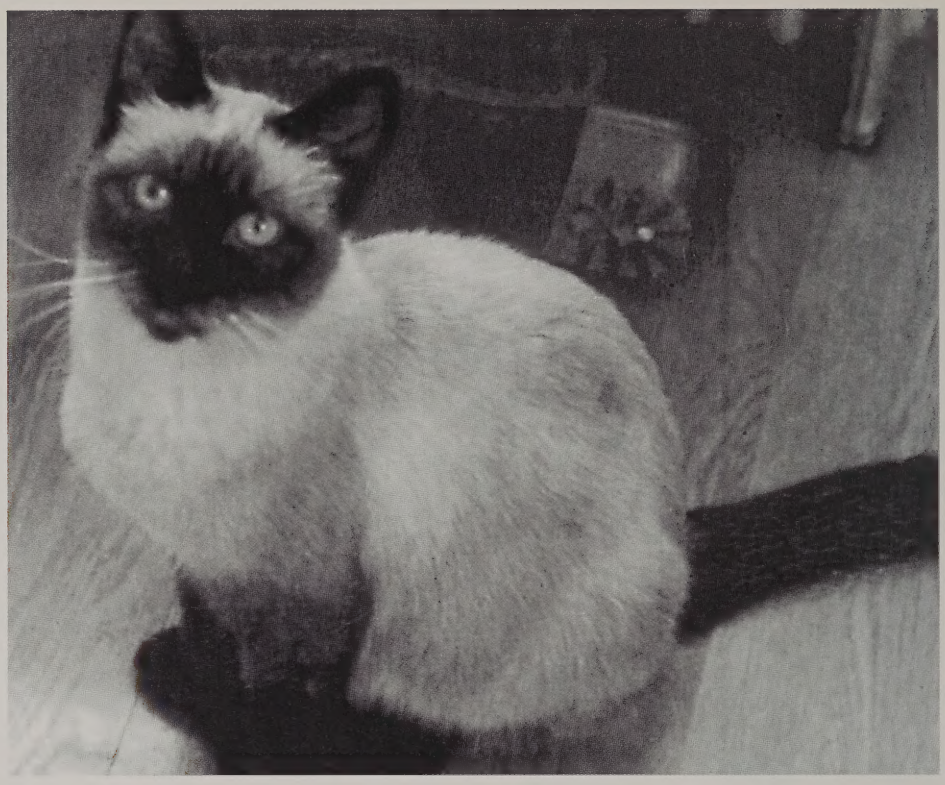
As a result, these animal abuses are being seen more and more in a variety of groups in our society and we tend to find the remains of these animals in many different locations without any apparent connection. The problems surface in various communities and neighborhoods.

Similar events are taking place in many other parts of the country. It is difficult to find the people responsible for these acts because it all happens in secret and isolated locations. One encouraging fact that will help to combat these crimes is the current recognition of the serious nature of such crimes by many local, state and federal law enforcement authorities. There has been a renewed interest in providing specialized training for police officers and animal control authorities. We are pleased and proud that our law enforcement staff has played a major role in providing this type of training. Captain Thom White, our Director of Criminal Investigation and Legislative Services, has been an outstanding leader in this field of specialized knowledge and investigative expertise. He has been called upon by police and other government officials throughout the country to aid them in education and new investigative techniques.

This needs to be coupled with more public awareness and concern and a substantial tightening of the laws with major increases in the penalties for such crimes. The time is right for such a change in the laws and we hope we may count on you, our members and friends, to help support new legislation when it is filed at the State House and up for vote before the Legislature.

I am grateful for your unending interest and support of our field of work, which continues to play such a critical role in the welfare of animals in today's social structure.

Rescue News



"Karaoke" is Okeedoky now that she is safely back on the ground.

Rescue of the Quarter

Karaoke has a happy landing

Allow us to share a letter we received regarding a recent successful rescue. The purrs, wagging tails and smiling faces of rescued animals as well as their owners always make our efforts worthwhile.

To The Staff Of The Animal Rescue League Of Boston:

Surely, a more professional member of a rescue team than your own Brad Munroe cannot exist. His determined resourcefulness, reassuring perseverance and agility, fortitude and prompt assessment of a situation most likely saved the life of a cherished pet. During a week of record humid heat, Brad's expertise was put to the test. Fifty feet up or higher, amongst scraggly branches, surrounded by the unrelenting clamor of power tools, compressor, pool filter and incessant mewling of the precious, panting, now-perched-in-the-tippity-top-of-the-tree kitty's owner, he devised salvation with bungees, straps, have-a-heart trap, food and water, in an abandoned squirrel nest. The cat, with its intention to remain aloft forever well-proven after four days, could now drop, climb or fall a less formidable distance directly below. Sometime that night, it did. And Brad, all wise and wonderful, climbed up yet again–this time returning with Karaoke, not bright but beautiful, in tow.

I am forever grateful,

Carol Brunswick

(Carol and her sister Ann Brunswick are the devoted and very relieved owners of Karaoke.)

A Veterinary UPDATE

Fall 3

by Bosmat Gal, D.V. M.

Over-the-Counter Human Drugs: Should I Use Them on My Pet?

Over-the-counter (OTC) human drugs are widely available to pet owners. However, a large number of these medications have not been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and usually a veterinarian will not recommend them for use in animals if equivalent veterinary drugs exist to treat the same medical condition. If a veterinarian elects to prescribe such a drug, its use will be considered "extra label" and a valid client-patient-veterinarian relationship must exist.

Pet owners should always consult their veterinarian before administering any OTC drug and should be aware that animals treated with most of these drugs can develop adverse effects and signs of toxicity. The most commonly used drugs are gastrointestinal and analgesics, followed by respiratory, skin and eye preparations.

Gastrointestinal: Drugs that act on the gastrointestinal system and can be subdivided by their action.

- Antidiarrheals: Some offer minimal benefits with negative effects and some will cause signs of toxicity, especially in cats. Others have a narrow margin of safety, as intoxication will show neurological signs.
- Motion sickness and vomiting prevention: Toxicity manifests itself as central nervous system depression or excitement.
- Laxatives and enemas: Long-term administration of laxatives will cause continuous nervous stimulation of the GI tract with abdominal discomfort. Enemas can be toxic due to massive phosphate content and can cause a small animal to overdose.

Analgesic Anti-inflammatory: Drugs that are most often used to control joint pain and other musculoskeletal conditions.

- Acetylsalicylic Acid: Present in any "aspirin." In therapeutic levels, this drug will cause erosive or ulcerative gastritis. In cats, overdosing is easily achieved, causing death. The enteric coated products can be retained in the stomach for a prolonged time and have unpredictable effects in cats and dogs. The buffered versions have questionable benefits.
- Acetaminophen: Overdosage in dogs will cause liver toxicity; in cats, it is contraindicated at any dose because of rapid, fatal changes in the red blood cells.
- Ibuprofen: A common non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug which causes GI toxicity. At higher dosages, will cause kidney toxicity in dogs. Ibuprofen toxicity cases in cats are commonly reported to the Animal Poison Control Center.

Respiratory: The most common drugs available are cough syrups. A wide variety exists, and most of them contain seven major active ingredients. Their therapeutic effect is questionable since no clinical studies are available to support or counter their action. For example: one of the ingredients (Guaifenesin) when overdosed can cause sedation and incoordination of movements. It absolutely should not be given to cats.

Skin Preparations

- Oral: In this group one can find a variety of antihistamines used generally to control itchiness. A common side effect is drowsiness. Be aware that some of these drugs may contain other active ingredients like Acetaminophen, and as mentioned above, can be toxic.
- Topical: For the antibacterial, antifungal and anti-inflammatory OTC preparations, a parallel range of veterinary products is available by prescription through your veterinarian. The active ingredient found in topical ointments used to treat musculoskeletal stiffness in humans could be toxic, especially to cats. The ointment not only gets absorbed through the skin, but can also be ingested.

Eye Preparations: Pet owners should avoid long-term therapy or eye cleansing with sterile saline solutions used for rinsing human contact lenses. Eye decongestants should also be avoided since they can hide symptoms essential for diagnosis and can also have toxic effects.

Acknowledgments: Special thanks to Dr. Etienne Côté for his help and support.

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1. Côté E.: Over the Counter Human Medications in Small Animals, Part 1. Gastrointestinal, Urinary, and Ophthalmic Drugs. Compendium on Continuing Education: 20 (5) 603-617, 1998.

2. Côté E.: Over the Counter Human Medications in Small Animals, Part II. Analgesic, Respiratory, and Dermatologic Drugs. Compendium on Continuing Education: 20 (7) 791-808, 1998.

News from

Adoption Price Change Reflects New Services

As of August 31, 1998, the new fee for adoption is a flat rate of $70 for cats and dogs (small animals remain the same at $5.25 and birds are priced according to breed). This new price reflects the League's increased expenses as well as the cost of new services that will help combat three significant problems the League faces daily: lost pets, rabies, and the status of cats.

First, all animals will now have microchips implanted to help increase the number of lost pets reunited with their owners.

Second, a rabies vaccination will be given to each animal. If the animal is not old enough for the vaccine, a voucher will be given for a free vaccination at a later date. Rabies is a serious problem in Massachusetts and it is imperative that all pets be vaccinated.

Third, in an effort to raise the status of cats, the cost to adopt a cat or a dog will now be equal. Cats have long been considered a second-class pet. Cats are less likely to be spayed or neutered and less likely to be searched for by their owner if they become lost.

When all the services provided are considered, the new adoption rate of $70 is actually quite a bargain (please see chart below).

Adoption centers are now open during nighttime hours at two of the League's shelters. On Thursday evenings the Dedham shelter is open until 7 p.m. and the Boston shelter is open until 8 p.m. We request that potential adopters arrive one hour prior to closing. This will allow time to spend with the animal, fill out the adoption questionnaire, interview with the staff, and have any necessary medical procedures taken care of. For further information please call 781-326-0729 (Dedham) or 617-426-9170 x-102 (Boston).

Companion Animal Owner Expenses

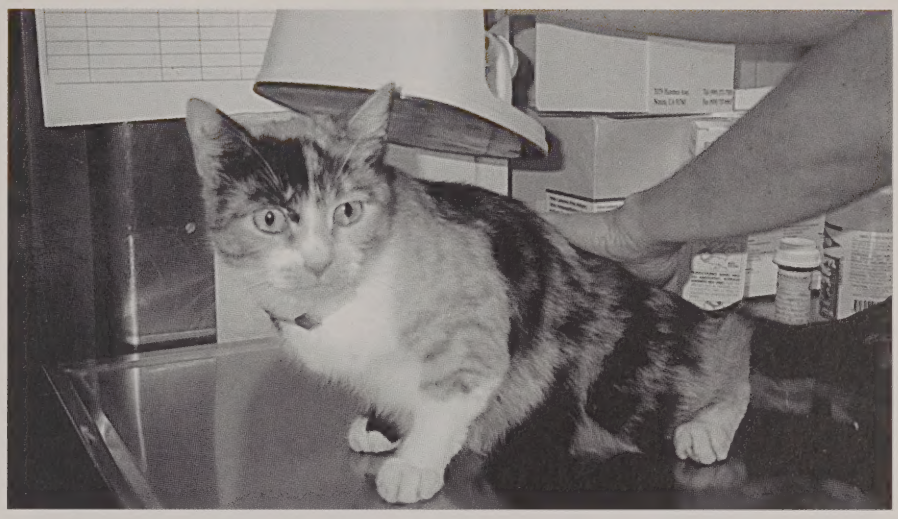
	"Free" Dog or Cat	Dog or Cat Adopted from Animal Rescue League
Initial Purchase (Dog or Cat)	*Free*	*$70*
Spay/Neuter Surgery	*$50 to $300*	*Included*
Health Screening	*$29 to $40*	*Included*
Initial Vaccinations	*$11 to $22*	*Included*
Canine Bordatella Vaccine (Kennel Cough/dogs only)	*$11 to $22*	*Included*
Rabies Vaccine	*$11 to $17*	*Included*
Heartworm Test	*$18 to $25*	*Included*
Leukemia Test	*$25 to $45*	*Included*
Deworming	*$6 to $9*	*Included*
Microchip - placement & registration	*$30 to $72*	*Included*
Identification Tag, Leash, Collar & Carrier	*$30 to $40*	*Included*
TOTAL	**$192 to $547**	**$70**

High-Tech Humane Society

Cell phones, e-mail, pagers... Technology is wonderful, but sometimes it is nice to get back to the simple pleasures in life, like cuddling on the couch with your favorite feline or being greeted at the door by your devoted dog. Now the Animal Rescue League of Boston combines the best of both worlds by using high-tech tools to protect our pets.

This September, the League began implanting a microchip under the skin of every adopted pet for identification. One of the greatest problems facing humane societies today is the large number of stray or lost animals entering shelters and never being claimed. New microchip technology will help the League reunite many more owners with their lost pets.

The AVID® FriendChip™, which the League uses, is a small computer chip (the size of a long piece of rice) with an identification number programmed into it. The microchip is implanted by injection into the scruff of an animal's neck between the shoulder blades. The slight discomfort of the injection is no more painful than an ordinary vaccination. It takes 24 hours for the microchip to settle into a spot in the muscle where it remains undetected by the animal for the rest of its life. The microchip is inert and encapsulated with biocompatible material, which means the animal should not have any rejection or allergic reaction to it. Once the animal has been microchipped, the identification number is registered with AVID's® PETtrac,™ a national tracking system. Using the identification number, the computer network can instantly access the name and contact information of the pet's owner, an alternate contact and the pet's veterinarian. While the animal's identification number remains the same, the contact information can be updated as frequently as necessary for a $6 fee.

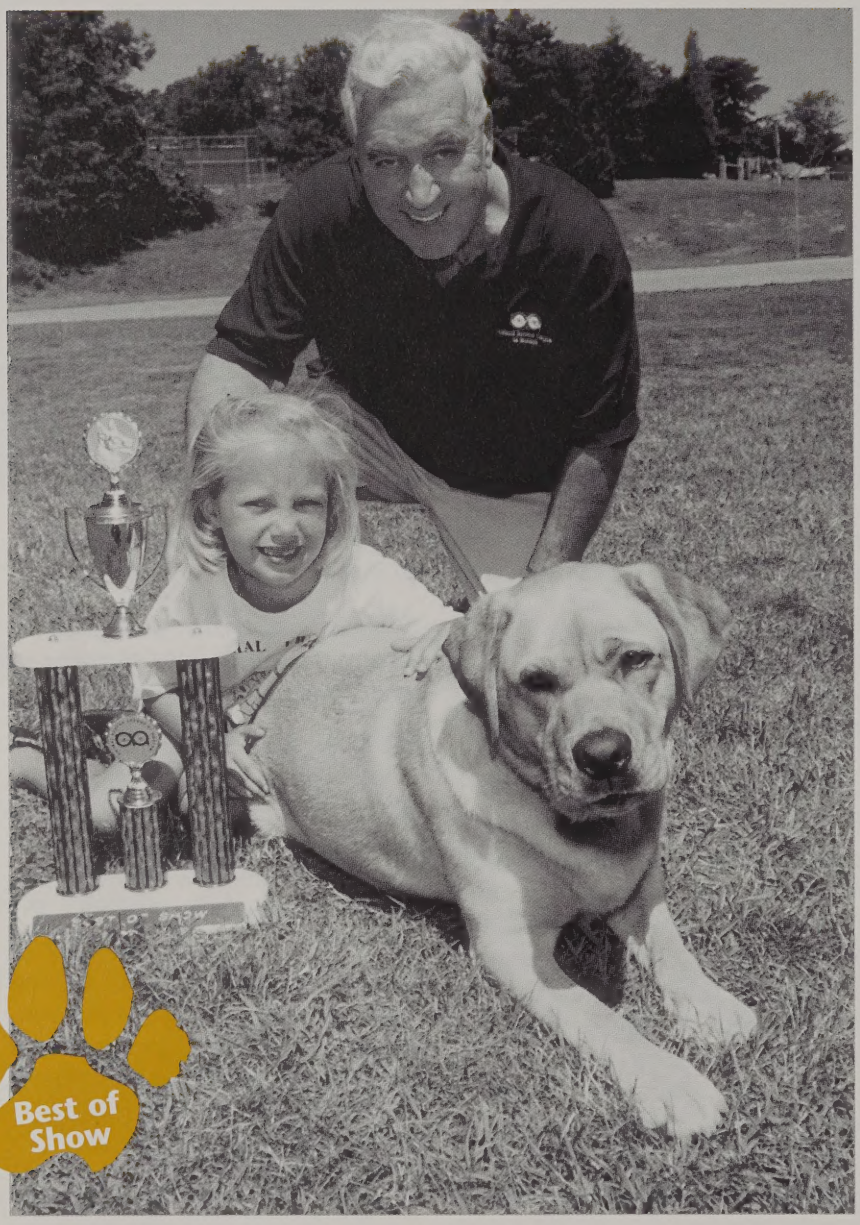


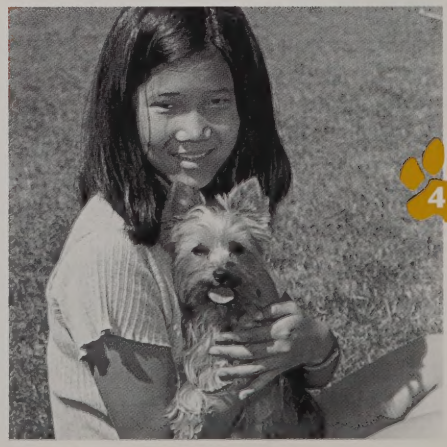
In less than a second the AVID® scanner will read the implanted microchip's identification number, and this lost cat will soon be on its way home.

If a pet is lost, animal welfare workers can retrieve the identification number with a hand-held scanner, which uses a radio signal to read through the skin of an animal. All animals brought to the League's four shelters are scanned. The scanners are universal, so quick identification is possible no matter what brand of microchip an animal has. Over 17,000 scanners have been distributed to veterinarians and humane organizations throughout the country. The more animal welfare workers with this capability, the better our pets are protected. Even if you do not have a pet, please inform your local animal control officer or rescue group that AVID® can provide them with a free scanner. (For more information call 800-336-AVID.)

Almost any pet can be implanted with a microchip: dogs, cats, horses, reptiles, birds and, believe it or not, fish. The League is very excited about adding scanning and microchipping to our shelter and adoption programs. Identifying indoor and outdoor pets is an essential part of responsible pet ownership. Microchips offer a safe and inexpensive addition to traditional collars and tags, which can be removed or accidentally fall off. The League recommends that all pets continue to wear tags so that they can be identified by private citizens or organizations without access to a scanner. Pet owners interested in having their pets at home implanted with a microchip should contact their veterinarian.

The microchip is not the only technological advance benefiting our pets at the Animal Rescue League. Shelter operations have been computerized since April 1997. Thanks to a software system called Chameleon®, essential tasks have run smoother, easier and faster throughout the shelter, ambulance, and adoption departments. In the past year, the implementation of Chameleon® has proved increasingly valuable. Managers are now able to track the contagious diseases of stray animals and other problems in their local communities. The four shelters work together more efficiently by identifying lost pets more quickly, immediately transferring emergency rescue reports and preventing adoptions to people previously denied at other facilities. The public enjoys the fact that the computer system keeps track of what animals are available at all four shelters. The new software is even able to track trends at the four shelters; the League then uses these statistics to implement new programs that are most needed. The Animal Rescue League is proud to be using cutting-edge technology to provide a safer world for our animal friends.





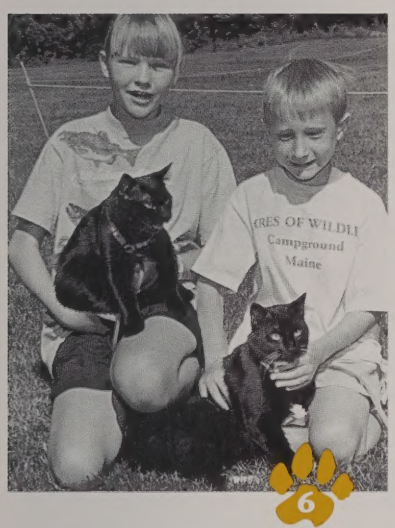
Pets Strut Their Stuff at the 1998 Camp Pet Show

With beautiful blue skies and a soft summer breeze across the Nye Ball Field in North Falmouth, the Animal Friends Summer Camp held its annual pet show on July 25, 1998.

The show attracted young and old, two-footed and four-footed, hairy, furry, and scaly animals.

Children ages 6 - 13 were eligible to enter their own pets. Categories included miscellaneous animals, puppies, kittens, dogs, cats, best tail waggers, and obedience. Judges based their decisions on the children's knowledge of how they cared for their pets at home.

Best in show was given to Caitlin Watson and her dog Boomer, a yellow lab. Caitlin and Boomer received a trophy for their efforts. (pictured above with League President, Arthur Slade)
Great job to all who participated - all your pets are winners!



1. Luke Boelitz and his sister Kris showed their golden hamster Christopher in the miscellaneous pets category.

2. Krista and Kelly Naddaff love their dog Suki, who placed first in the female dogs over 6 months category. Suki is half Boxer and half Lab.

3. Sam Shapiro brought his dog Shadow to the show, and won second place for dogs under 6 months. Shadow is half Golden Retriever and half Labrador Retriever.

4. Marti Lauer and her Yorkshire Terrier Zoe won second place for obedience. Good dog!

5. Emily Rose holds on tight to her lovely rabbit.

6. Sam Albright and his sister show off their two beautiful black cats.

Share your memories of the Animal Rescue League

Attention Animal Rescue League members, donors, subscribers and friends: 1998 is flying by very quickly.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston is looking forward to observing its 100th Anniversary on March 13, 1999! This special centennial celebration will become a reality thanks to you, our many members and donors. You supported the League's work during our past century of caring for animals and we are all extremely grateful to you for helping us reach this landmark occasion.

Please join us as we celebrate this wonderful milestone by sharing your special memories of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. A selection of letters, photographs, poems and short stories will be featured in a special commemorative 100th Anniversary publication or in an upcoming issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends*.

Here are just a few ideas:

- A tribute in memory or honor of a beloved pet or a family member or friend who loved animals...
- An unusual or exciting rescue you remember...
- An incident involving an adopted League pet that enriched your life in a unique way....
- Memories of present or former employees....
- Humorous animal anecdotes ....
- A special story that will touch the hearts of pet owners....
- And last but not least, we especially want to hear about the history of the earlier years of this organization.

Did you adopt a pet from the League in the 1940s, '50s or '60s?

Do you remember anything about the Albany Street or Carver Street locations or have an old photograph of an Animal Rescue League shelter or ambulance?

Please mail letters, photographs and other written material to Laura MacFeeley, c/o Animal Rescue League of Boston, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117. You may also send information to her e-mail address at lmacfeel@arlboston.org or call her at 617-426-9170, ext. 116 to ask questions or chat about an historical League event.

We hope to hear from you soon!

3rd Annual Tribute Tree

This holiday season, honor your favorite animal friend with a special memento. In memory of a beloved pet now deceased or as a tribute to your current companion(s), you are invited to purchase an ornament for the Animal Rescue League of Boston Tribute Tree. The cost per ornament is $5 while supplies last. This year's ornament is a gold snowflake with the League logo in the center. Your honored pet's name will be written on the back of the ornament (as well as the year of death, if the pet is deceased) and will also be listed in *Our Fourfooted Friends*. Ornaments will be mailed to you by mid December. In addition, a handmade paper ornament will be created by one of our special needs volunteers and hung on the Tribute Tree at the Boston headquarters during the holiday season. The money raised will go toward helping other animals less fortunate than your special furry friend. To order an ornament, please send $5 along with your name, address and phone number, pet's name, and year of death (if deceased), to Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265 Boston, MA 02117. For more information, please call 617-426-9170 x-109.

Dolphin-Assisted Therapy

Together, Animals and Children Come Full Circle at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium

By Sonia Beals

Flipper who? "Sunset Sam" is the star of the day at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater, Florida. This unique dolphin is joined by a superb supporting cast of characters including: "Mo," a Loggerhead turtle, and his tank mates "Bailey" and "Stumpy;" a few choice stingrays and two otters named "Webster" and "Garth." These special creatures are part of the aquarium's Full Circle Program, which provides animal-assisted therapy for children between four and 16 years of age with physical, mental or emotional disabilities. Due to injury or chronic health problems, the animals themselves receive treatment, and because of the nature of their illnesses are not able to be released into their native habitats.

Created in 1992 by Recreational Therapist, Marianne Klingel, the Full Circle Program has helped several hundred children with special needs improve their skills in the areas of language, social interaction, fine and gross motor movement, as well as self-esteem. Klingel is assisted in her efforts by Mental Health Therapist, Scott Swaim, as well as aquarium animal trainers and interns.

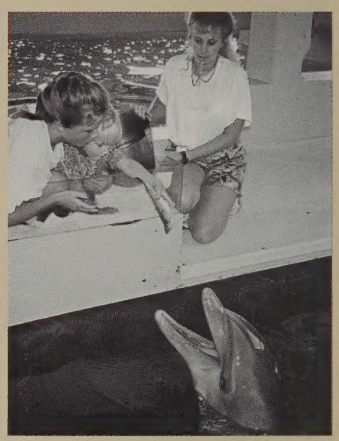
"Mo" the Loggerhead turtle stops by for a visit during a therapy session.

"Animals are not judgmental; they offer unconditional love. This type of acceptance can be especially meaningful to a child with disabilities. The Full Circle Program offers every child the chance to be proud of who they are and what they can do with their special animal friends," according to Klingel.

What exactly is Dolphin-Assisted Therapy?

Derived from the definition from the Delta Society, Dolphin-Assisted Therapy (DAT) is a goal-directed intervention in which a dolphin that meets specific criteria is an integral part of the treatment process. DAT is directed and/or delivered by a health/human service provider with a specialized expertise within the scope of practice of his/her profession. DAT is designed to promote improvement in the human participant's physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive functioning. DAT is provided in a variety of settings and may be group or individual in nature. This process is documented and evaluated, and modified as necessary for optimal results.

Simply stated, the dolphin and other animals at the aquarium provide a necessary positive reinforcer in the implementation of a child's individual education plan (IEP) that is monitored and documented. The interaction with these animals, although pleasurable and rewarding, is also clinical rather than purely recreational. There are set goals and objectives for each therapy session. The children who receive therapeutic services often enhance their learning through interaction with the animals.



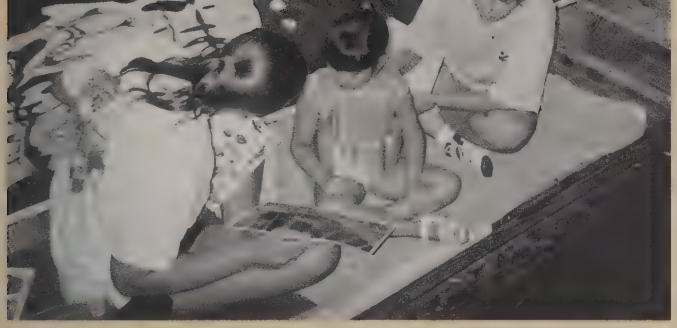
A therapist, student, and trainer interact with "Sunset Sam" during a dolphin-assisted therapy session.

Klingel makes it clear that the children are not allowed in the water with the animals. "All interactions are conducted from feeding or training platforms. This allows the child to be close to the animals while preserving the animals' personal space as well." She also addresses the suggested mythical healing powers associated with dolphins. "The Full Circle Program is not a magic cure for a serious disability, but rather an adjunct therapy to develop needed skills and enjoyment of life. We strive to increase these children's compassion and respect for all creatures, including themselves."

Therapy sessions are structured in four quadrants, each lasting about 15 minutes. Basic social skills such as meeting and greeting are encouraged at the beginning of the session. The quadrants begin in "food prep" where the child learns how and what to feed the animals with which they will be working. Skills utilized include fish identification, counting the number of fish to prevent overfeeding, washing the food, and social interaction, which promotes verbal communication.

For a child with language delay problems, vocabulary words such as "wash," "fish," "open," and "squid" may be included in the IEP. In reference to feeding, Swaim has observed that "the children are so excited to be working with a dolphin, that they don't realize they're counting."

The second quadrant formally implements the IEP. Susan is a child who has moderate speech difficulties. The child, therapist and animal trainer proceed to the platform by the pool.



Therapist and student work together on a puzzle while an animal trainer looks on.

"Mo" the turtle, who is a permanent aquarium resident due to a chronic shell condition, swims over to the platform as soon as he sees the trainer and his food. While the trainer keeps "Mo" occupied, the therapist and Susan work on a puzzle featuring marine animals. Susan is asked to name the animals as she works with the puzzle pieces. After completing the task, Susan is told, "good job" and can now practice her speech skills by saying, "Mo, come!" The turtle sees the lettuce in Susan's hand and moves in her direction. Susan's eyes grow big with excitement and after "Mo" successfully retrieves the lettuce she has thrown, the little girl tosses her head back with a gleeful laugh.

The group moves to the dolphin platform to begin quadrant three. "Sunset Sam" joins them at the platform and waits for his cue. Before Susan can work with "Sunset," she must first work with the therapist on practicing vocabulary words. Today dolphin anatomy words are identified on a mini version of "Sunset." Once Susan pronounces her words, she gets to work with the real thing. Throughout the sessions, Susan has learned "Sunset's" hand signals. She asks "Sunset" to jump out of the water by pointing her fingers up in the air and saying the words, "Sunset, jump!" The dolphin obliges and Susan feeds him a fish. Once again, her head goes back and peels of laughter can be heard around the aquarium.

Getting up close and personal with the stingrays at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Quadrant four finds the group at the stingray tank. Here Susan practices words such as "pet," "touch" and "swim" and she holds and feels the gray kite-shaped creatures. If time allows Susan finishes an arts and crafts project to take home and adds a line in her journal about today's experience. She leaves the aquarium knowing she did her best. Her self-esteem is high, and she has made new memories with her animal friends.

The Full Circle Program has become so well known that children from all over the world have visited the facility for services. The program is funded by private donations and offers complimentary "Make-A-Wish" visits for chronically ill children. Ten one-hour therapy sessions cost $1,000 and may be scheduled once a week over a ten-week period or once a day over a two-week period. Scholarships are also available for families with financial need.

Recreational Therapist Marianne Klingel and student in "food prep" make sure the turtles have clean, fresh lettuce.

Presently there are approximately six dolphin-assisted therapy programs in the United States. In an effort to increase the number of programs across the country as well as raise awareness, Klingel has recently begun offering DAT workshops. Those who are interested in a career in DAT should have a background in a health-care field such as physical, occupational, recreational, or speech therapy, psychology or special education. Volunteer experience in other animal-assisted therapy/activity programs such as pet visitation or horseback riding for the handicapped is strongly suggested. Thanks to people like Marianne Klingel and the staff at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, children with special needs have the opportunity to learn, build confidence and eventually come full circle.

Dolphin-Assisted Therapy Programs

You can receive more information about U.S. dolphin-assisted therapy programs and organizations by contacting any or all of the following:

Child Dolphin Therapy Program
Dolphin Research Center
P.O. Box 522875, Marathon Shores, FL 33052
(305) 289-1121 • Contact: Joan Nehew

Full Circle Program
Clearwater Marine Aquarium
249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 34630
(813) 441-1790, ext. 21 • Contact: Marianne Klingel

Dolphin Human Therapy
328 Crandon Boulevard, #216
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
(305) 361-3313 • Contact: Dr. David Nathanson

Island Dolphin Care
Dolphin Plus
P.O. Box 2728, Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-5884 • Contact: Deena Leavengood

Special Education and Research Program
For Autistic Students
The Mirage Dolphin Environment
P.O. Box 7777, Las Vegas, NV 89177
(702) 791-7588 • Contact: Dan Blasko

International Dolphin-Assisted Therapy and Research Association (IDATRA)
C/O Aquathought Labs
15951 McGregor Boulevard, Suite 2-C
Ft. Meyers, FL 33908
(941) 437-2958 • Contact: David Cole
Aquathought.com

The 1998 Animal Friends Summer Camp staff. Kathryn Crowley is in the front row, third from the right.

Animal Friends Summer Camp

By Kathryn Crowley

Amber Santangelo, of Wild Again, introduces a fine-feathered friend at special event time at Animal Friends Summer Camp.

Animal Friends Summer Camp, located in Cataumet, Mass., just completed its 49th season. Campers ages six through 13 come to camp from a variety of surrounding towns. They spend three or four weeks of their summer participating in group activities, singing songs, and attending classes such as horse care, farm life, small pet care, nature exploration and ocean ecology. The League's camp offers personal attention as well as group learning, which focuses on respect for all living things. It offers children a memorable and well-rounded summer experience.

Camp begins every day with the raising of the flag, which leads to song time, a true favorite among campers and counselors. Song time energizes everyone before beginning the group activities. They are led by three counselors who stand in the front of the room showing off their coordination of lyrics and motion while motivating the entire camp. Song leaders are assigned, but it is an exciting job and counselors happily anticipate their turn. The eagerness of the counselors to lead songs was exemplified on the last day of camp when more than half the staff joined the leaders in the front of the room.

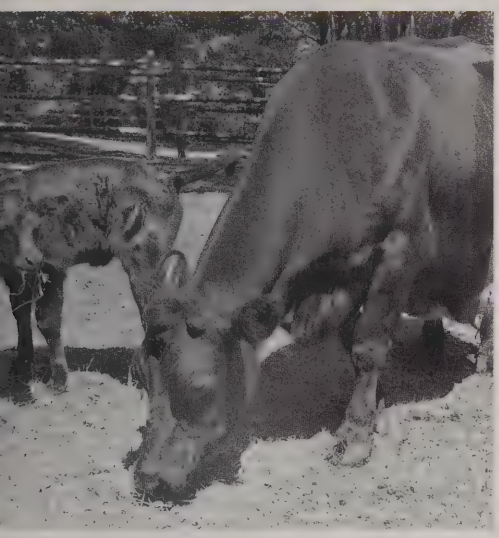
After songs we begin a group activity, usually a creative variation of tag or dodge ball, and then class time begins. Classes are chosen by campers each week and cover an array of subjects from learning about farm animals to making bracelets. As a past camper, I have been able to watch the evolution of the classes. Many of the classes are still the same, but there have been some minor adjustments over the years. The birdhouses built in woodworking, for example, are much more tasteful. It is still the same design, a rectangle with a swinging front door and a hand drilled hole for the bird, but when I was a camper we had the opportunity to paint it. I was indecisive about the color, and decided to paint each side differently. My parents were so impressed with my craftsmanship that they put the birdhouse up right away...on the top shelf of a bookcase in our garage. My parents assured me that was the best location so that the colors wouldn't run in the rain. Now in the wood shop, only more classic birdhouses are built, which is greatly appreciated by the parents and the birds.

After class time we have a special event in which someone from the community or a staff member talks about topics such as reptiles, birds of prey, drug prevention, bike safety and guide dogs for the blind. Special event concludes the morning session, and we break for lunch. Afternoon is similar to the morning session except song time and the special

On behalf of the League's Dedham facility, Lisa Lagos, shelter manager (m.) accepts a generous donation from PETCO's Joan Ashe (r.).

Petco's Paper Bunny Sales Benefit Dedham Shelter

A recent fund-raising campaign created by PETCO, a pet food and supply store, raised $425.70 for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Each year PETCO customers are asked to buy a paper bunny for one dollar. The "Show Me The Bunny" program was conducted in the Dedham and Norwood stores and the money was donated to the League's Dedham shelter. The League is grateful to PETCO for its support and thanks the many generous animal friends who purchased the paper bunnies.



Sophie the cow and her newborn calf, Sydney, graze on the camp's farm.

event are replaced by hobby time. Hobby time is similar to a second class where the campers choose weekly activities such as team sports, arts and crafts, and fun with clay. Many of the campers spend the full day at camp rather than choosing between morning and afternoon. Whether a camper spends a full day or only part of the day, camp is the most memorable part of the summer and something to look forward to all winter long.

Editor's Note: Kathryn Crowley is the 1998 recipient of the Florence Buttrick Award named in honor of the late wife of former League President, Dr. Carlton Buttrick. The award is given to the counselor who best captures the qualities of leadership, teamwork, compassion and humane education values.

(clockwise) Instructor Donny Vilario, Sharon Krogh, Mike Brammer and Alan Borgal learn to navigate the swift water of the Potomac River.

Disaster Preparedness

Six Animal Rescue League of Boston staff members recently took part in Technical Animal Rescue II, a difficult and highly specialized training course. The program, which is run by the American Humane Association and Rescue 3 International, is aimed toward preparing workers for disaster-related rescues.

The three-day course included: incident command procedures, swift water rescue (with and without boats), chemical immobilization, ice rescue, horse rescue, and a nighttime mock disaster drill.

The mock disaster was held in the dark night from 8 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., and involved the aftermath of a supposed hurricane where animals and people were found trapped everywhere, including in trees. (No live animals were used for this exercise.)

The daring and hard-working group learned to operate as a team in the midst of disastrous situations. They came home exhausted but prepared to assist animals in our local area or wherever their special skills are needed.

Rigaud Lee (l.) and Mike Brammer (r.) practice the complicated art of using the Anderson Sling to hoist this mock horse back onto its feet.

Animal Fri

A special feature for our younger readers

Summer's End May Spell Distress for Beloved Pets

Helping pets cope with back-to-school schedules

Nearly five years ago, when summer ended and the first week of September rolled around, I remember having to pack for my freshman year of college at UMASS Amherst. As I put my belongings together, my cat Tiger perched himself on top of my suitcase. His eyes scanned all the crates, boxes and bags I had packed. I couldn't help but wonder if he had a sense that I was leaving. My family and I adopted Tiger from the Animal Rescue League's Dedham branch when I was in eighth grade. Within his first week home, he learned my school schedule. He knew exactly when I would be entering the door, and he tripped me each and every day. Now, he would have no idea when I would be returning.

During my first week away from home, I called to inquire how he was doing. My mother and father reported that Tiger's activity level and appetite were low. He'd spent the last couple of nights sleeping at their feet, which he had never done before. He'd always slept right next to me. Now, he was spending most of the day hiding under my bed and showed no interest in his toys.

Was Tiger sick? Did he develop a cold? Not at all! Tiger had experienced what most pets do when someone they love suddenly leaves: Separation anxiety. This basically means that your pet is going to miss spending time with you when you go back to school! There are some ways to ease your pet's loneliness during the day. Here are some helpful hints to help your pet cope with long hours alone:

Provide your pet with a favorite toy to entertain himself with. Make sure whatever you choose for your pet is safe, and will not break or get stuck in his throat. What does your pet enjoy playing with? A chew toy? A ball? Or a toy mouse? These will keep your pet from getting bored.

Before you leave, remember to feed your pet and leave plenty of fresh water. These are vital for pets staying home alone.

Provide young animals with a blanket that has your scent on it. Your scent will make a puppy or kitten feel secure.

Get your pet on a schedule of its own. Set aside a special playtime after school. Take your dog for an extra long walk. Encourage your cat to pounce and play with a favorite toy.

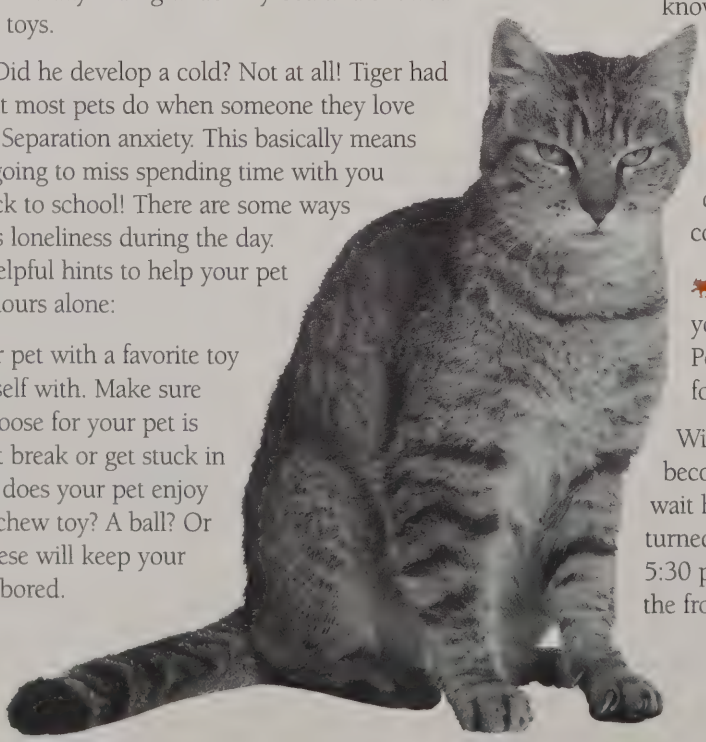
Don't forget small pets! Rabbits and rodents will miss the noises of a busy summer household. Provide a wheel for small rodents to exercise on. Guinea pigs and rabbits love to chew on paper towel rolls, hay, and fresh vegetables. Remember to set time aside to handle them as well.

For long absences, turn on a radio station that plays soft, soothing music to keep your pet company. Even horses are known to enjoy the sounds of classical music when played in their barn! Pet birds will love to hear soft tunes as well.

A dog walker or pet sitter may be considered for dogs left for long periods of time. They can get both exercise and company while everyone is away.

Hiding treats around the house will give your dog or cat something to "hunt" for. Pets enjoy searching corners of the house for tidbits.

With time, love and patience, your pet will become used to your busy schedule, and will wait happily at the door for you. Tiger has just turned 10 years old, and can be found at exactly 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, waiting at the front door for me to trip over!



ends

Dear Gretel

Could you tell me the difference between antlers and horns?

Dear reader,

I actually get asked this question quite frequently.

My deer friend Buck has a nice set of antlers which are called a rack. Just like tree branches, Buck's antlers extend into points. At this time of year, Buck's antlers are nice and solid. When winter arrives, however, Buck will shed his antlers and they will be replaced in the spring and summer with new soft, velvet-covered antlers which will harden over time. Elk, moose, and caribou grow antlers too.

Horns are different from antlers in the fact that horns are hollow and they don't shed or branch off like Buck's antlers do. In fact, if an animal loses his/her horns, they do not grow back. Animals with horns get only one set per lifetime. You will see horns on goats, cows, bison and sheep.

Hey Kids!

Do you have questions for Gretel? Write in and if your question gets published in *Our Fourfooted Friends* magazine, you'll receive a free Animal Rescue League of Boston t-shirt. Send your questions to:

Questions
Letters to Gretel, The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

friends of the quarter

Everett Lucas, volunteer at the League's Dedham branch, helps to prove that cats really can find their way out of a paper bag.

A Volunteer with Heart

"Everett Lucas is a wonderful volunteer," says the staff at the League's Dedham shelter. The cats look forward to receiving blankets, treats, and extra love from him on Monday mornings. He also can be counted on to walk the dogs and make sure the horses have plenty of hay and water. By the time Everett leaves, all the animals are looking their best due to his great grooming. We value all of his help.

If you or someone you know has been performing good deeds on behalf of our animal friends, send us a photo and letter with all the details! If we publish your story, we'll send you a League t-shirt!

Send entries to:
Friend of the Quarter
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Pets in the

1.

Along with making new friends in the neighborhood and owning too many toys, Sophie Chen from Boston admits her dog Miles knows that "life pretty much revolves around him." Sophie notes "he is a joy to have as company."

2.

Nora Gildea from Lexington writes, "Maggie has become a beloved member of our family." Not only has Maggie passed puppy kindergarten, but Nora adds "she " plays ball with my husband, is my constant companion and is wonderful with the kids, Julia (l.) and Caroline."

3.

"My family has always adopted pets from the Animal Rescue League and they have always been friends for life," Liz Rosato writes. After adopting Nutty from their home state, Massachusetts, and then relocating to New York, Liz says, "Nutty loves her new home and is adapting well to being a 'city kitty.'"

4.

Leslie Atlas of Franklin says her new cat Daisy "was totally at home the minute we brought her home." Daisy has outgrown the nickname the Animal Rescue League gave her. As you can see, "Singe" no longer describes her singed whiskers. Leslie notes, "they grew back just fine."

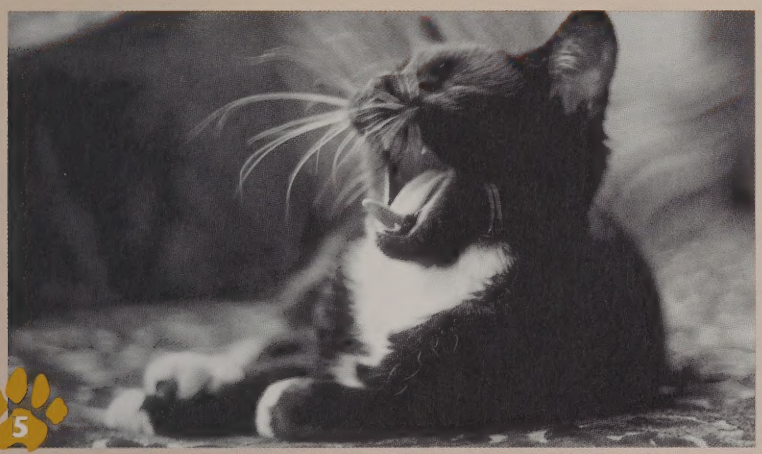
5.

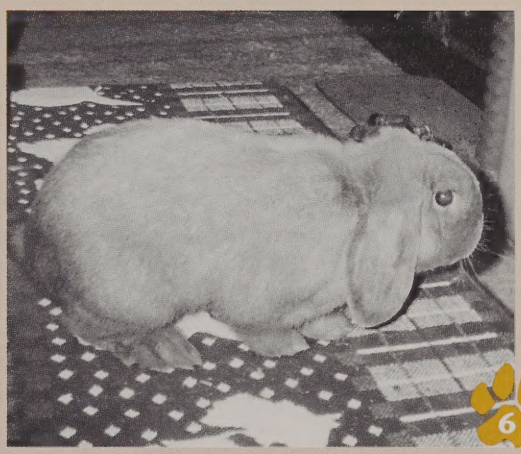
Laura Stoll and Ben Fehlner of Auburndale are the proud owners of this friendly feline. Adopted from the Dedham shelter, Laura says, "Chester is a happy cat." From this picture it looks like Chester is ready for a little catnap!

6.

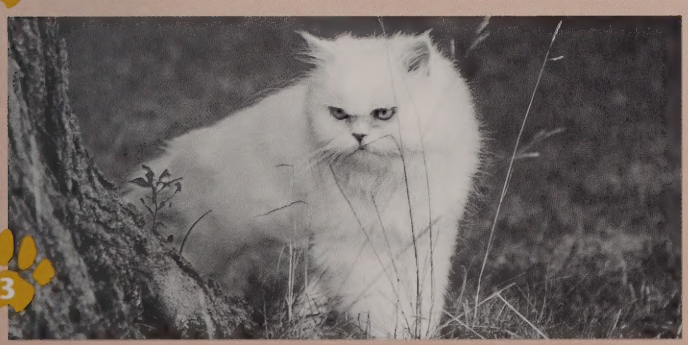
Ziggy the rabbit wrote to us in May gloating about his wonderful new life in his new home. He says, "I found a home with a lady who lets me run free, sleep on the bed and feeds me treats. Ziggy says a feline person likes having him around. They play games like "nose kissing" and "whose paper bag is this." Ziggy adds, "ahhhh, life is good!"

Picture





Gone But Not Forgotten



1. "Koko"

"She gave such joy and love to our family, we will never forget our sweetest little lap cat," says Arleen Sanders of Natick of her "beloved little calico girl, Koko." Not only does the Sanders' family miss her terribly, but Arleen adds that Koko's brother, Krush, is lost without her. "We miss you, Koko."

2. "Megan"

Lou and Ann Pells adopted Megan from the Brewster shelter in 1985. Ann writes, "She was a good and faithful friend and a good companion." Megan will be missed but will live on in memories forever.

3. "Brando"

"Treating Brando's diabetic condition for the last five months taught me patience and dedication," writes Sandra Dustin of her feline companion. "He was taken from an extremely neglectful situation two years ago, and I will always remember my handsome and charming buddy who would awaken me in the mornings with a touch of his paw on my cheek."

Pet Loss Group

The loss of a beloved pet can be a difficult experience. The League is now offering support services to the public. If you are interested in participating in a group or have questions about pet loss, please call Marcia Lowry Maloney, LMHC at 617-426-9170 ext. 430.

Sit Up & Beg

The staff at the League has developed the following "wish list" of items that would add to the safety, care, or comfort of our animal friends. If you would like to donate any of these items, or contribute toward the purchase of a piece of equipment, please call (617) 426-9170.

Towels and Blankets

Used to line cages for comfort and warmth, as well as in ambulances and after bathing.

Cat and Dog Toys (still in packaging)

Special Request: Dog toys such as Kong toys, Nylabones, Booda rope toys and Buster Cubes; approx. $15 a piece. Used to help reduce the stress level of the animals while in the shelter.

Small Outboard Motor (8 horsepower) & Lifejackets:

Would be used with inflatable rescue boat for pond rescues of wildlife; new motor ($1500), new lifejacket ($40 each) or used.

Thank You

Thank you to the many thoughtful animal lovers who take time to stop at our shelter locations to drop off blankets, towels and toys. Your kindness provides comfort, warmth and happiness to our furry friends.

We would like to gratefully thank the following friends for their generous contributions:

Interactive Dog Toys

Barbara Greene, West Newton

Donation Box Host

Dental Associates of New England

Advertising for North Shore Shelter

The Bargain Hunter's Guide helps you find a bargain close to your home and now they are also helping the League to promote adoptions in the North Shore area. Thanks.

Pet Food, Toys and Assorted Supplies

A truckload of thanks to Ben Steinberg & Hagen Company for the truckload of pet supplies.

Volunteer Corner

The Animal Rescue League of Boston volunteer program will celebrate its second birthday this October. We are fortunate to have approximately 120 dedicated and wonderful volunteers who donate their free time each month to the League. These volunteers help out with cleaning cages, feeding, socializing and bathing animals, filing, envelope stuffing, computer data entry and all of our special events. Whether they have been with the volunteer program since the beginning or have just begun, all of these kind and caring people help the League reach its goals. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Volunteer positions are still available at the Salem shelter on weekdays, 10am - 4pm. All positions at the other shelter locations are currently filled and there are waiting lists. If you would like to become a volunteer who helps out at special events only, please call the volunteer department at 617-426-9170 ext. 126 for more information.

Show your support

and help spread awareness of the Animal Rescue League of Boston by wearing and using these new League items!

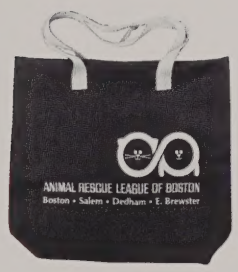
All of these promotional items may be purchased at League locations in Boston, Brewster, Dedham and Salem, or may be ordered by mail.

T-Shirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$10.00 ea.
Children's
(S, M, L)
$7.00 ea.

Sweatshirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.
Children's
(S, M, L)
$15.00 ea.

Sweatpants
(S, M, L)
$18.00 ea.

Blue Ribbon Pin
$5.00 ea.



Tote Bag
$12.00 ea.

Water Bottle
$2.50 ea.

Ceramic Coffee Mug
$3.00 ea.

Baseball Hats
$12.00 ea.

"ARL Logo" Hat

"Centennial" Hat

Please send me:

Quantity	Item	Size	Cost
Total *(Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling for orders $10 and over or if ordering two or more ceramic mugs.)*			

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. (Please remember shipping and handling charge if applicable.) Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston**
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Mark Your Calendar!

OCTOBER '98

Adopt-a-dog month

17 Petoberfest
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Rain Date: Sunday, October 18
Dedham Branch
Spend a day of family fun with our animal friends.

NOVEMBER

21 & 22 Pet Expo
Saturday & Sunday
Bayside Expo Center, Boston
Don't forget to stop by the League's table and say hello.

DECEMBER

15 Christmas Dinner for Horses
Tuesday
Faneuil Hall, Boston
Let's all say a big thank you to the working horses of the city.

MARCH '99

13 100th Anniversary of the Animal Rescue League of Boston
Please light a candle in honor of all the animals saved by the Animal Rescue League of Boston over the last 100 years.

100th Anniversary 1899-1999

20 100th Anniversary Gala
Saturday
Park Plaza Hotel, Boston
Dust off your dancing shoes and join the party!!

Please join us for these upcoming League events. If you have questions please call 617-426-9170.

Our fourfooted friends (US ISSN 0030 6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265 Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Address Correction Requested